

**Developmental Disabilities Council
Public Policy Committee
DRAFT MINUTES
September 20, 2007**

Present: Leo Finnigan (chair), Janet Adams (DDD), Sherrie Brown (UCED), John Lemus, David Lord (DRW), Patty McDonald (ADSA) Shannon Patton, Diana Zottman,

Absent: Lori Flood, Tabitha Harrison

Staff: Donna Patrick, David Maltman, Brian Dahl

Guests: Lance Morehouse, Director of Family Support and Advocacy, Arc of Spokane

Call to Order/Adjustment of Agenda/Approval of Minutes

Leo called the meeting to order. There were no adjustments to the agenda.

MOTION: Approve the July committee minutes. Unanimous.

Interim Legislative & Public Policy Activities Update

The Committee discussed the problem of people with severe disabilities needing something to do during the day. There are a number of people who have only a few or no work hours or who have been in a sheltered workshop that no longer exists. They don't have meaningful activities during the day and their parents are being forced to stay out of the workforce themselves so that someone is home to be with the adult child. The DDC and the Arc of Washington are meeting with several groups from King and Snohomish County to develop a plan.

Lance noted that the way the statewide DD parent coalitions decided to address the issue was to establish "Additional employment funding for adults with significant disabilities" as one of their legislative priorities. It was pointed out that there are other activities besides employment that make up a person's quality of life.

There was a discussion about the public's responsibility to fund inclusion and reduce people's isolation, as well as the emerging issue of people with disabilities who have been working now reaching retirement age.

The group discussed the Intensive Behavior Supports bill draft. Our federal language ("Disability is a natural part of human life and does not limit one's rights or participation in life") will be added to the bill, as well as language to strengthen the connection of services to education.

Rating System for Issues

The group reviewed the Issues Rating System proposed by Ed and determined that it is a good approach for internal staff and Public Policy Committee analysis. It will be used for that.

2008 Legislative Agenda

The group reviewed the draft agenda and made suggestions to go forward to the Council.

VOTE: Approve the Council's Legislative Agenda, with suggested changes, for review and vote at Friday's Council meeting. Motion passed with two abstentions.

Legislative Reception/Briefing

The all disabilities legislative reception will be Wednesday, January 16, 2008 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in the third floor area of the Legislative Building. There will be a developmental disabilities issues briefing prior to the reception (3:30 - 5:00) in the Columbia Room, first floor of the Legislative Building.

Big Picture Work Plan

There wasn't time to go over the Committee's workplan.

Council Report

Discussion of legislative and public policy issues
Presentation of the Council's 2008 Legislative Agenda

Next Meeting Agenda

Legislative and public policy issues
Report on ACCT

The meeting was adjourned